

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following paragraph, marked to show changes:

This application claims priority to and incorporates by reference the disclosure set forth, in its entirety, in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/463,334, entitled "Safety Instrumented Systems Function Blocks" filed April 17, 2003. The present invention is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 10/453,596, filed 4 June 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 10/160,094, filed 4 June 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,594,530, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent application serial no. 08/916,178, filed 21 August 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,424,872. Each of the above-mentioned applications and patents are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.